

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Henry -

Here is a way
to calm Alex Johnson
down on the counter-
draft proposal. ↓
Bunt

Were sent 10/30/73

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS Review Completed

MORI C05125626

DP IMM2D

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O 221510Z ZYH OCT 73 ZFF1 25X1
FM SALT DEL, GENEVA

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

T O P S E C R E T/EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY 221510Z OCT 73

25X1

IMMEDIATE

FM: AMBASSADOR J. ALEXIS JOHNSON, SALDEL, GENEVA 978
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE: EYES ONLY GENERAL SCOWCROFT,
DELIVER OOB
DEAR BRENT:

1. AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM MY TRAFFIC, I AM SENDING RALPH EARLE BACK TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON AND HELP EXPLAIN OUR PROPOSED COUNTER-DRAFT TO THE SOVIET DRAFT. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS THAT NO ONE IN WASHINGTON HAS EVEN AGREED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF A COUNTER-DRAFT, AND MY PURPOSE IN SENDING RALPH BACK IS TO DO MY BEST TO ASSURE THAT PEOPLE DO NOT REACH SNAP JUDGMENTS ON THE PRINCIPLE OR ON THE CONTENT OF OUR DRAFT WITHOUT FULLY UNDERSTANDING EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AND HOW ALL THE MANY PARTS OF THE DRAFT ARE INTERRELATED. IT WAS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT I SUGGESTED A VPWG MEETING AT AN EARLY DATE, BEFORE THE VARIOUS AGENCIES' STAFFS GOT THEIR HOOKS INTO WHAT WE HAVE DONE HERE. WITH PHIL ODEEN'S DEPARTURE AND HENRY IN HIS NEW JOB, I AM NOT AT ALL CLEAR ON HOW SALT WORK IS BEING HANDLED. HOWEVER, THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ASSURE YOU THAT, IF THE NSC ROLE IS BEING CONTINUED AS IN THE PAST, MY PURPOSE HAS NOT BEEN TO SHORT-CIRCUIT OR EMBARRASS THEM OR TELL THEM HOW THEY SHOULD SUCK EGGS, AND I HAVE TOLD RALPH EARLE THAT IF WHOEVER IS APPROPRIATE OVER IN YOUR SHOP WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM BEFORE ANY VPWG MEETING, HE SHOULD OF COURSE MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE.

2. I KNOW WHAT HENRY HAD IN MIND WHEN I LEFT AND ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR DRAFT IS VERY "HARD LINE." I FEEL THAT THIS IS A PROPER RESPONSE HERE IN GENEVA AT THE PRESENT TIME TO THEIR "HARD LINE," AND WE CAN THUS BEST LAY THE BASIS FOR WHATEVER DIRECTION WE MAY WANT TO MOVE IN THE FUTURE. I HAVE ALSO TRIED TO BUILD INTO THE DRAFT WHAT I HAVE TERMED "NEGOTIATING ELBOW ROOM" AND HAVE REPEATED THIS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NO ONE SHOULD MISUNDERSTAND THAT I FEEL THAT THIS DRAFT IS IN ANY SENSE A FINAL POSITION ON WHICH WE SHOULD MAKE OUR STAND, BUT RATHER A NEGOTIATING TACTIC. THE REAL ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE FACED WHEN OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE FORMULATED FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SCOWCROFT, HOWE

RECALLED
PAGE 01

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***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

FROM THIS DRAFT, WHICH I HOPE TO GET STARTED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3. RALPH HAS MY FULL CONFIDENCE AND PROXY; SO, IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON TO ME FROM HIM, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

4. REGARDS. ALEX JOHNSON.

T O P S E C R E T/EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY

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PAGE 02

OF 02

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